

TRIPURA GAZETTE



Published by Authority

EXTRAORDINARY ISSUE

Agartala, Thursday, February 15, 2024 A. D., Magha 26, 1945 S. E.

PART--I-- Orders and Notifications by the Government of Tripura,
The High Court, Government Treasury etc.

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA FOREST DEPARTMENT

No.F.16(161)/For-Dev/CC/ELEMENT/2023-24/32846-865 Dated, Agartala, the 9th February, 2024

NOTIFICATION

**Sub: "Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management (ELEMENT- Tripura)"
Project-A World Bank assisted Project for Tripura**

The "Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management (ELEMENT)" Project has been prepared with an overarching objective to develop forests and landscapes by bringing in self reliance among forest dependent communities and improving the livelihood of the forest fringe dwelling communities. The project also aims to develop high value forest based value chains with private sector participation and increase earnings from forestry sector with special emphasis on agar, bamboo, medicinal and aromatic plants and ecotourism. ELEMENT-Project, Tripura shall cover all 8 districts in the state in 5 years.

1. The Project Development Objectives

To improve landscape management and increased benefits for targeted forest dependent communities in Tripura.

2. Key Indicators

- a) Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (ha)
- b) People with increased benefits from landscape-based value chains (Disaggregated by gender and disadvantaged groups) (numbers)

3. Project Cost and Financing

The total cost of the project is 215 Million USD (1764.935 Rs Crs) of which the World Bank Loan is 172 Million USD(1411.96 Rs Crs)(80%) and State Government contribution is 43 Million USD(352.987 Rs Crs)(20%).

The "Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management (ELEMENT)" Project is financed through IPF(Investment Project Financing) mechanism by the World Bank. Disbursement under the project is in reimbursement mode by the World Bank. At first, the project is pre-financed by State Government through state annual budgetary system based on the annual action plan. The project shall incur expenses first and then seek reimbursement from the bank through submission of timely financial reports.

4. Project Design

The ELEMENT project targets 4 broad components for intervention to achieve its objectives.

- 1: Strengthening institutions for integrated landscape management
- 2: Landscape restoration for improved ecosystem services
- 3: Enhancing market opportunities for economic transformation
- 4: Project management, Monitoring and Evaluation

5. Geographic scope of the Project

The project area includes 3,01,084.36 ha of forest land in 304 watershed catchments covering 821 villages and 260 Forest Beats covering all the 8 districts of Tripura.(West District, Sepahijala, South District, Gomati District, Khowai, North District, Unakoti, Dhalai).

6. Institutional and Implementation Arrangement

A registered autonomous society namely Tripura State Forest Development Agency (T-SFDA) registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 will be the Special Purpose Vehicle for the Project. The T-SFDA Society will be responsible for the overall planning, budget allocation, implementation support, coordination and monitoring of the project. The Society is a federation of 20 FDAs (Forest Development Agencies) corresponding to 17 forest subdivisions and 3 wildlife sanctuaries. The T-SFDA Society has a General Body and the Executive Body headed by the Principal Chief Conservator Forests and Head of Forest force.

The State Level Project Steering Committee headed by Chief Secretary shall be responsible for policy and strategic guidance and will periodically review its progress.

7. Project Management Unit(PMU)

There will be a Project Management Unit (PMU) under the T-SFDA headed by the Chief Executive Officer & Project Director of Element Project who shall be a government official. The overall function of the PMU will be to lead policy design, develop operational procedures, including governance and compliance, plan and coordinate with all PIUs and liaison with Government and private stakeholders. There shall be separate directors for (1) Administration & Procurement (2) Finance (3) Sustainable Forest Management (Including GIS and MIS) (4) Community Institution (5) Capacity Building & Knowledge Management (6) Tripura State Forest Research Institute-Value Chain and Innovation and (7) Ecotourism, who shall be government officials. The PMU will also have Program Managers and other support staff also. The Project Management Consultants (PMC) shall comprise of various subject matter experts who will support the PMU for planning and coordination in implementing the Project.

8. Project Implementation Units (PIU)

The PMU will be supported by 21 PIUs, which are the functional institutions in the project. These are the 20 FDAs (Forest Development Agencies) corresponding to 17 forest subdivisions and 3 wildlife sanctuaries and 1(one) PIU corresponding to the Tripura State Housing and Construction Board. The Forest Development Agencies are Societies which are a conglomeration of JFMCs through which the project shall be implemented. The Tripura State Housing and Construction Board would carry out major civil works for the project.

9. Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) or the Eco-Development Committee (EDC)

The JFMCs and EDCs are the community institutions at the village-level which will serve as the unit responsible for landscape planning and implementation. 500 JFMCs shall be created in 821 villages and 260 forest beats within the 8 districts of Tripura.

10. Tripura State Forest Research Institute (TSFRI)

The project is set in the context of the present era of drastic climate change. Research and analysis is the key to success for adopting appropriate mitigation measures. So project envisages development of a multi-disciplinary Tripura State Forest Research Institute which could become a Centre of Excellence for Climate Resilient Forestry Management Practices. The establishment of the "Tripura State Forest Research Institute Society" (TSFRI Society in short), under Societies Registration Act, 1860, is required to take up and coordinate research activities on sustainable forest management and landscape management in Tripura, soil and moisture conservation, climate change mitigation measures, value chain development and innovation, extension and knowledge management, forestry training and human resource management in the sector.

11. The institutional structure and fund flow mechanism for the ELEMENT Project has been agreed with the World Bank during its missions and it has been detailed in the Project Implementation Plan (PIP). The PIP also includes the Project Procurement Strategy Document (PPSD), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Commitment Plan(ESCP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

12. The Council of Ministers has approved the institutional arrangements, Project Implementation Plan(PIP) and related documents included in it for implementation of the "Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management (ELEMENT)" Project and also approved the proposal for establishment of the Tripura State Forest Research Institute (TSFRI) Society, for taking up and coordinating research and development activities in forestry sector in the ELEMENT project, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 along with its

Tripura Gazette, Extraordinary Issue, February 15, 2024 A. D.

Memorandum of Association and the Rules and Regulations, in its meeting held on 1st December, 2023. This is issued as per approval of the Council of ministers which has been circulated vide No.F.1 (20)-GA (CAB)/2023 dated 4th December, 2023.



(Sanjib Das, IFS)

Addl. Secretary
to the Government of Tripura